

SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I come this afternoon to the House of Representatives to bring a message from Kansans and those who support the Second Amendment.

The United States Supreme Court ruled last year that the Second Amendment guarantees an individual's right to own firearms and that Washington DC's gun ban is unconstitutional. This decision was a win for all Americans and sent a message to governments across the country in support of Second Amendment freedoms.

Unfortunately in recent weeks we have heard from administration officials and gun control advocates that they are pushing to restrict an individual's gun rights, the rights guaranteed by our Constitution. Discussing escalating violence caused by drug cartels in Mexico, U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder last month called for reinstating the so-called assault weapons ban.

This is the wrong approach. Instead of punishing law-abiding American gun owners, our citizens, our country should be working to enforce existing gun laws that outlaw illegal purchases. We should secure our borders, and we should work to increase the cooperation between the United States and Mexican authorities.

Many Kansans are also concerned about H.R. 45, legislation that has been proposed to license gun owners and track firearms sales. I am hopeful that this bill does not have the support to be approved by this Congress.

An article in today's Wichita Eagle, our newspaper at home, highlights an ironic twist. The article reports that news of gun control efforts, along with concerns that crime will increase with a troubled economy, has ramped up the demand for firearms and ammunitions. Shortages are now common as retail stores are having trouble keeping guns and ammunition on the shelves.

I want to restate that our Founding Fathers established a Bill of Rights to our Constitution to make sure that American citizens can live in freedom without government intrusion. Human liberty and limited government are principles I hold in high regard.

I stand with Kansans in opposing efforts that violate the Second Amendment, and I will continue to cast my votes where it's necessary to protect our rights, including those provided for by the Second Amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FLAKE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

SALUTING 290TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. KRATOVIL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KRATOVIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 290th Military Police Company of Adelphi, Maryland. Earlier this month I had the honor of attending a welcome home ceremony for the soldiers.

In June of 1948, the "Defenders" received their original Federal recognition and were activated several times during the 1960s and 1970s to quell civil disturbance in Cambridge, Salisbury and Baltimore, Maryland. In 1990, the 290th was mobilized both in support of Operation Desert Shield and of Desert Storm.

On September 11, the 290th was again called to service to secure the crash site at the Pentagon while rescue and recovery operations took place. From there, the 290th was mobilized under Operation Noble Eagle for homeland defense.

The 290th was again called upon to help support Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. During the mission, the 290th provided force protection for key air bases, including those in Pakistan.

In 2005, when Hurricane Katrina devastated the gulf region, once again the 290th was sent to Mississippi to assist local law enforcement with emergency and relief operations. And, again, in October 2007, the 290th was once again mobilized and deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. This is a unit that has been asked to serve our Nation all over the world and right here at home, and each time it has responded to the call of duty valiantly and honorably. But now, deservedly, they are home.

Our Nation's greatest strength is the men and women who selflessly give of themselves to defend our ideals, and their families, who make sacrifices every day while their loved ones are in harm's way. I salute the 290th military police company and welcome them home, and pledge to be an advocate for them and all veterans of our Armed Forces.

Celebrating the valor of our Armed Forces is one thing, but here in Congress we must put our money where our mouth is and support the men and women of our Armed Forces, their families and our veterans, or we are merely providing lip service to them.

Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD the members of the unit from Maryland's First Congressional District, who served so honorably.

Name, Rank, City:

Benitez, Luis Enrique, Jr, SPC, Bel Air, MD 21014; Fowler, Allen Mitchell, SGT, Bel Air, MD 21014; Sullens, Jeffrey Lee, SGT, Belcamp, MD 21017; Frederick, Robert, SPC, Preston, MD 21655; Zimmerman, Maria Masha, SPC, Preston, MD 21655; Wood, James Spencer, SPC, Cockeysville, MD 21030; Smack, Derrick Clinton, SPC, Delmar, MD 21875.

Dixon, Kassey Craig, SPC, Elkridge, MD 21075; Dixon, Kim Craig, SGT, Elkridge, MD 21075; Saunders, James Junior, 1SG, Hanover, MD 21076; Baschogeorge, Franklyn L, SGT, Jessup, MD 20794; Buckingham, Victoria Kathari, SGT, Laurel, MD 20708; Sadler, Brandon Anthony, SPC, Port Deposit, MD 21904; Ward, John Allen, SPC, Port Deposit, MD 21904.

Clayton, John Joseph, SSG, Annapolis, MD 21409; Tull, Thomas David, SSG, Severn, MD 21144; Windisch, Catherine Anne, SSG, Annapolis, MD 21409; Blevins, Richard Earl, SGT, Hebron, MD 21830; Calhoun, Susan Mabel, SGT, Delmar, MD 21875; Cannon, Anitra Chantal, SPC, Crisfield, MD 21817; Dixon, Joel Harrison, SPC, Salisbury, MD 21804.

Henley, Tony Mario, Jr, SPC, Pittsville, MD 21850; Houston, Martin Lee, Jr, SPC, Ocean City, MD 21842; Insley, Amber Joy, SPC, Princess Anne, MD 21853; Marvin, Andrew Michael, SGT, Salisbury, MD 21804; Richards, Johnathan, SPC, Pocomoke, MD 21851; Hunter, Christy Lynn, SGT, Crisfield, MD 21817.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROE of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, while I was running for Congress last year, I noticed that Democrats everywhere were campaigning on the notion that they were fiscally responsible and would make wise decisions for our country based on what we could afford.

Frankly, as the former mayor of Johnson City, Tennessee, who has grown accustomed to balanced budgets and living within our means, this sounded pretty good. It made me excited to come to Washington and get our financial house in order.

My excitement, however, was short lived when I realized how thoughtlessly we would spend a billion dollars. First we approved the second \$350 billion of the Troubled Asset Relief Program, which is what people back home and I call a bailout of our banking institutions. Then we approved \$787 billion for what was called economic stimulus, but what was in reality a laundry list of spending items the Democrats hadn't been able to get funded the past few years and won't produce sustainable economic growth.

Just when I thought things couldn't get worse, we went out and passed a fiscal year 2009 omnibus spending bill that included \$410 billion and an 8 percent increase for our Federal agencies. I am going to pause for a second and let that sink in, an 8 percent increase at a time of record deficits where local county, city and State governments are cutting and balancing budgets.

I think the American people are so skeptical of what's happening in Washington because what they see people in